

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /080 W
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O 221700Z AUG 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3130
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L 9516

FROM USDEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PORG, RH, US, ZA
SUBJECT: LAGOS CONFERENCE: CONVERSATION WITH KAUNDA ON RHODESIA

REF: LAGOS 9476 (NOTAL)

1. AT THE OUTSET OF OUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA LAST NIGHT (REFTEL), AMBASSADOR YOUNG RESTATED THE US COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONCOMITANT ADHERENCE TO THE GOAL OF MAJORITY RULE IN ZIMBABWE. THE US IS WORKING FOR A JUST AND WORKABLE PACKAGE FOR A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT, AND THE SUPPORT OF THE FRONT LINE STATES WILL BE CRUCIAL IN THIS REGARD.

2. DICK MOOSE BRIEFED KAUNDA ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF OUR MEETINGS WITH THE BRITISH AND THE VANCE-OWEN TALKS WITH PIK BOTHA. HE
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AND YOUNG STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER ATTACHES TO FAIR ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE AND, CONSEQUENTLY, THE NEED TO ESTABLISH THE RIGHT KIND OF CONDITIONS FOR SUCH ELECTIONS. YOUNG ADDED THAT WE WANT A SOLUTION THAT WILL NOT LEAD TO A CIVIL WAR, AND THAT AN INTERNAL SOLUTION WOULD PERPETUATE THE WARFARE IN AMBABWE.

3. KAUNDA RESPONDED THAT ZAMBIA WELCOMES PRESIDENT CARTER'S STRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS; HE SEES THIS AS "A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH", WITH RESPECT TO RHODESIA, HE SAID "WE ARE OFF TO A GOOD START," AND MUST NOW SEE HOW A SETTLEMENT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED. "NOW," HE SAID, "WE MUST BELL THE CAT AND END THE FIGHTING."

4. HE CAUTIONED US NOT TO TIE OURSELVES TOO CLOSELY TO UK POLICY AS WE CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A SETTLEMENT: "AS LONG AS YOU ARE CONTENTED TO FOLLOW THE BRITISH LEAD WE WILL GO AROUND IN CIRCLES." HE SAID THAT HE MADE THIS OBSERVATION NOT FROM ANY ANTI-BRITISH BIAS, BUT FROM THE KNOWLEDGE THAT BRITAIN SIMPLY DOES NOT HAVE THE STRENGTH TO DO WHAT IT SHOULD IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

5. KAUNDA SAID NYERERE HAD BRIEFED HIM ON HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. LIKE NYERERE, HE REGARDS THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE RHODESIAN ARMY AS OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE. IN PROSECUTING THE RHODESIAN ARMY HAD DONE THINGS WHICH MAKE IT UNTHINKABLE THAT IT COULD REMAIN AS A PART OF THE NEW ARMY OF ZIMBABWE. HE THEN SAID, "WE ARE PLEASED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECOGNITION OF THIS." THE POLICE COULD REMAIN, BUT SOME - PERHAPS MANY - INDIVIDUALS WOULD HAVE TO GO.

6. KAUNDA ASSERTED THAT ALTHOUGH JOSHUA NKOMA IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF HIS AND OF OTHER FRONT LINE LEADERS, "THIS WOULD NOT TEMPT US TO IMPOSE HIM ON THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE." NKOMO, LIKE OTHER
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ZIMBABWE POLITICAL LEADERS, MUST TAKE HIS CHANCES AT THE POLLS. AFTER INFORMING US OF THE FRONT LINE MEETING IN LUSAK AUGUST 26TH AND INVITING YOUNG AND OWEN TO MEET WITH THEM ON THE 27TH (REFTEL), KAUNDA SAID THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD ALSO BE INVITED TO LUSAKA. WITH A WRY SMILE, HE SAID HE DOUBTED MUZOREWA OR SITHOLE WOULD COME TO LUSAKA. HE SEEMED TO AGREE WE SHOULD MEET WITH ALL PARTIES, AND SUGGESTED THAT IF WE GO TO SALISBURY, MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE COULD SEE US THERE.

7. BEFORE TURNING TO THE TOPIC OF NAMIBIA (SEPTEL), KAUNDA STATED, "SOUTH AFRICA IS NOT PART AND PARCEL OF THE SOLUTION (OF RHODESIA), IT IS PART AND PARCEL OF THE PROBLEM." HE THEREFORE WELCOMED THE US POSITION THAT THE THREE MAJOR PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA MUST BE TREATED EACH ON ITS OWN INDIVIDUAL MERITS.
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